Modal verbs II

SEMESTRAL UNI - 2023 II

Modal verbs are helping/auxiliary verbs that express ideas like **ability**, **advice**, and **obligation**. Many modal verbs have more than one meaning. They are always followed by the simple form of a verb. For example:
Amanda should go to the doctor.
This shows that we think it is a good idea for Amanda to visit the doctor.

Modals for Advice

Let's learn how to give **advice**!
English speakers use the modal verbs "**should**," "**ought to**" **and** "**had better**" to express that they think something is a good (or a bad) idea. "**Should**" **is the most common way to give advice**.
Look at these examples:

Affirmative	Negative	Question
A: I failed my test. B: Really? You **should study** harder.	Young children **shouldn't watch** violent TV shows.	I have a problem. **Should** I **call** my parents or my friend?
A: It's really cold outside. B: You **ought to wear** a warm jacket.	**("ought to" is not usually used in the negative form)**	**("**ought to" is not common in question form)
A: You **had better slow down**. You are driving too fast!	You **had better not forget** to pay your tuition. If you do, the university will kick you out!	("had better" is not usually used in question form)

These examples have the same basic advice message, but "**had better**" is a bit stronger. It includes the idea of a warning: something bad will happen if you do not follow my advice. For example:
You **had better** not forget to pay your tuition. If you forget, the university will kick you out
You **had better** do your homework. If you do not do your homework, the teacher will give you a low mark.
Note: "You had better..." can be contracted to become "You'd better...." This is correct grammar, and very common in speaking. Some native speakers say, "You better ...," but this is incorrect. The "had" is necessary in good grammar.
In the above examples, you can see that the modals are followed by the simple form of a verb in these patterns.

Subject + **modal** + **basic verb** + ... → You should study harder.
You should *to* study harder. → Wrong!
You had better *slowing* down. → Wrong!
She ought to *to* drink more water. → Wrong!
Remember that "ought to" is a modal verb and is followed by a simple verb. The "to" is not an infinitive "to."

Modal + **subject** + **basic verb** + **...??** → Should I call my parents or my friend?
WH- (information) questions can also be formed by putting the WH- question word immediately before the modal.
For example:
What should I do about my problem?
Where should we have dinner tonight?
Why should you believe them?
When should they call their boss?
Modal verbs are helping/auxiliary verbs that express ideas like **ability**, **necessity**, and **prohibition**. Many modal verbs have more than one meaning. They are always followed by the simple form of a verb. For example:
Andrew has to pay his rent every month.
This shows that Andrew has no choice. He has an obligation to pay his rent. He will be in trouble if he does not pay his rent.

Modals of Necessity

Let's read about how to express **necessity** or **obligation**. The modal verbs "**must**," "**have to**" **and** "**have got to**" show that something is not optional; it is necessary.
Must is the strongest and most **serious modal verb of the three and is most c**ommon in writing. It is unusual to use "must" in questions.
I must study tonight.
Have got to is most common **in informal speech. It is not used in questions**.
I have got to study tonight. = I **must study tonight.**
Have to is the most commonly **used modal of obligation. It is useful for form**ing questions and negatives.
Be careful! The subject and v**erb must agree for he/she/it subjects AND th**e question form requires "Do/Does/Did".

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Example	Question	Answer
I have to study tonight.	Do I have to study tonight?	Yes, I do.
She has to study tonight.	Does she have to study tonight?	No, she doesn't.

Remember: "have got to" and "have to" are modal verbs and require a simple verb to follow them. The "to" is part of the modal; it is not an infinitive "to".
There is **only one way to express past time** with these modal verbs: **HAD TO**. (There is no past tense of must/have got to.)
For example:

Present Time	Past Time
We **must show** our passport at the airport.	Last night, we **had to show** our passport at the airport.
I **have got to pay** my phone bill soon.	I **had to pay** my phone bill this morning.
They **have to go** to the meeting today.	They **had to go** to the meeting yesterday.

Modal verbs are helping/auxiliary verbs that express ideas like **ability**, **necessity**, **lack of obligation**, and **prohibition**. Many modal verbs have more than one meaning. They are always followed by the simple form of a verb. For example:
Alex doesn't have to call his mother.
This shows that it is not necessary for Alex to call his mother.

Modals for Lack of Obligation

If something is **not necessary** or **not an obligation**, we use the modal verb "**do/does not have to**." Make sure the verb agrees with the subject.
For example:
In Canada, children **do not have to** go to school on Saturdays, but many adults **have to** work.
Common Question: Do children have to go to school on Saturdays? No, they don't.
Negative Question: Don't children have to go to school on Saturdays? No, they don't.

Maggie **doesn't have to** study tonight because she studied all day.
Common Question: Does Maggie have to study tonight? No, she doesn't.
Negative Question: Doesn't Maggie have to study tonight? No, she doesn't.
To put the modal in **past tense**, simply use the phrase "DID not have to."
For example:
For homework last night, we had to read Chapters 4 and 6, but we **didn't have to** read Chapter 5.
Question: Did we have to read Chapter 5 last night? No, we didn't.
As always, modals are followed by the simple form of a verb. The "to" in "do not have to" is not an infinitive. It is part of the modal itself.
Subject + do/does not have to + simple verb + ...

Modals of Prohibition

Finally, in order to show that something is **prohibited** or **not allowed**, we use "**must not**." For example:
Students **must not** copy their work from the Internet. It's illegal!
Children, you **must not** go in a stranger's car. It's dangerous!
Using "must not" is very serious and not very common in North American English. There is no question form or past tense form. It is useful when people in authority are giving instructions or explaining to people what they must not do in a formal way. It is more common in writing than in speaking.
Drivers **must not** drive on the left side of the road in North America.
You **mustn't** drink alcohol before you drive. You could cause an accident.